



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

June 29, 2020

Mr. Jeffrey W. Giles
Assistant City Attorney
City of Houston
P.O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

OR2020-16668

Dear Mr. Giles:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 834095 (GC Nos. 26626 and 26680).

The City of Houston (the "city") received two requests from different requestors for the bid tabulation pertaining to a specified bid solicitation. Although you take no position regarding whether the submitted information is excepted from disclosure, you state release of the information at issue may implicate the proprietary interests of the following third parties: Creative Bureau, Inc. (Print N Sign); Diarco, LLC; Dodd Signs d/b/a Fastsigns Houston; JK Graphics, Inc. d/b/a Tomball Print & Copy; Joce Ventures; Knowvine, Inc. d/b/a Sign-Ups and Banners; Nayak Corporation d/b/a Altius Graphics; and RMH Assets Management, LLC. Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation demonstrating, the city notified these interested third parties of the request for information and of their right to submit arguments to this office as to why the submitted information should not be released. *See Gov't Code § 552.305(d)*; *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in the Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should be withheld from public disclosure. *See Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B)*. As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from any of the interested third parties explaining why the information at issue should not be released. Thus, we have no basis to conclude any of the third parties have a protected proprietary interest in the information at issue. *See, e.g., id. § 552.110* (requiring the

provision of specific factual evidence demonstrating the applicability of the exception). Therefore, the city may not withhold any portion of the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest the third parties may have in it. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the city must release the submitted information.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/members-public/what-expect-after-ruling-issued> or call the OAG's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Public Information Act may be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the OAG, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

Blake Brennan
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

BBX/be

Ref: ID# 834095

Enc. Submitted documents

c: 2 Requestors
(w/o enclosures)

c: 8 Third Parties
(w/o enclosures)